



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER**  
1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



**ADOPTED**

Odey C. Ukpo, M.D., M.S.  
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

May 02, 2023

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

58 May 2, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF ONE COMPUTER  
TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SCANNER SYSTEM AND ONE CT TRAILER  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS - 3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (DMEC) is requesting approval to authorize the acquisition of one (1) CT Scanner and one (1) CT Trailer for a cost not to exceed \$589,000. This purchase exceeds the \$250,000 capital asset threshold established by the Board and requires your approval to move forward with the acquisition process.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

Authorize the Internal Services Department (ISD), as the County's Purchasing Agent (CPA), to proceed with the acquisition of one (1) CT Scanner System and one (1) CT Trailer for a cost not to exceed \$589,000.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended action is to purchase one CT Scanner System and one CT Trailer used to determine manner and cause of death for decedents who fall within the DMEC's jurisdiction. The CT Scanner provides high resolution radiographic images that can accurately identify the cause of death in cases of trauma and a subset of natural disease. Use of the CT Scanner effectively reduces the number of cases that require autopsy to determine manner and cause of death.

The current system is a refurbished model that was purchased in 2015 and is approaching its end of life. The system has become less and less reliable and is often unavailable due to breakdowns,

causing delays in decedent case processing. Additionally, the current CT Scanner no longer meets the County's IT security standards.

Purchasing a new CT Scanner and CT Trailer will provide the DMEC with a reliable, up-to-date system that will improve the quality of death investigations, minimize pathologist workload and reduce delays in determining manner and cause of death. Additionally, it will help the DMEC maintain its National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Accreditation by reducing turnaround time in completing death investigations.

In approving the recommended actions, the DMEC will be able to use state of the art equipment to continue effectively determining manner and cause of death for all decedents whose deaths fall under DMEC jurisdiction.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended action supports the County's Strategic Plan, Goal 1: Realize Tomorrow's Government Today, by implementing technological enhancements and acquisitions by replacing a legacy system, which will increase operational effectiveness, fiscal responsibility and accountability.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The total estimated cost for the purchase of the CT Scanner and the CT Trailer is estimated not to exceed \$589,000. This amount is available in the DMEC's FY 2022-23 Budget.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 27491, the DMEC is charged with inquiring into and determining the circumstances, manner, and cause of all violent, sudden, unattended or unusual deaths. The DMEC has the discretion to determine the extent of the inquiry into any death falling within its jurisdiction. The purchase of this CT Scanner and CT Trailer are critical to the DMEC's ability to perform a thorough death investigation and to determine manner and cause of death.

On October 16, 2001, your Board adopted a policy by which departments must obtain Board approval to purchase equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting a requisition to ISD, the County's Purchasing Agent.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

This is a commodity purchase under the statutory authority of ISD (the CPA). The purchase will be requisitioned through and accomplished by the CPA in accordance with the County's established purchasing policies and procedures.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The acquisition of a CT Scanner and CT Trailer will greatly enhance the DMEC's ability to determine manner and cause of death. It will effectively use today's technology to improve findings and reduce delays in death investigation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

5/2/2023

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When approved, the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors is requested to return the signed and approved Board Letter to:

Procurement Unit  
Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner  
Los Angeles, CA 90033

1104 N. Mission Road

Respectfully submitted,



Odey C. Ukpo, M.D., M.S.  
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

OCU:slg